

Message Text

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16

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ABF-01 SS-15 SCCT-01 FBO-02 EB-07

USIA-06 SCA-01 PPT-01 VO-03 SCS-03 AID-05 OC-05 CCO-00

A-01 /064 W

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R 080545Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2964

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1416

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM BRAND

E O 11652 N A

TAGS ASEC

SUBJ: SECURITY PROTECTION OF POST

REF: STATE 210312

1. YOUR TELEGRAM IS MOST WELCOME AND IS RECEIVED WITH ENTHUSIASM. SINCE MY ARRIVAL IN MELBOURNE WELL OVER A YEAR AGO I HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY PRESSING FOR IMPROVED SECURITY AT THIS POST. THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF YOUR MESSAGE GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THE SERIES OF NECESSARY MOVES ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST 20 MONTHS. PLANS FOR MOVING ALL PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS TO THE LOWER FLOOR ARE CURRENTLY IN THE DEPT. WE WILL WELCOME THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

2. OUR FIRST STEP IN IMPROVING THE SECURITY OF OUR OFFICE WAS TO CUT OFF THE TOP TWO FLOORS, WHICH WE OCCUPY, FROM THE REST OF THE BUILDING BELOW. THIS WAS DONE IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR WITH SECURITY FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE DEPT. ACQUISITION OF ALL THE SPACE WITHIN THAT AREA

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WAS THE NEXT STEP; AND IN JUNE THE DEPT APPROVED

OUR LEASING THE SPACE OCCUPIED BY TWO COMMERICAL FIRMS ON THE LOWER (8TH) FLOOR. ON AUG 13 WE LEASED THE LARGER OF THE TWO PARCELS AND ON OCT 1 WE SHALL OBTAIN THE REMAINDER.

3. ALTHOUGH THE DEPT IN JUNE AUTHORIZED LEASING OF ALL NON-USG SPACE IN OUR AREA, THEY WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO UTILIZE THIS SPACE. FOR PROPER SECURITY WE MUST MOVE DOWNSTAIRS TO THE 8TH FLOOR OUR PUBLIC RECEPTION FACILITIES, OUR SWITCHBOARD, OUR VISA WAITING ROOM AND THE ENTIRE CONSULAR SECTION, ALL OF WHICH ARE NOW ON THE 9TH FLOOR RIGHT NEXT TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER VERY SENSITIVE AREAS. FOLLOWING THE MOVE WE CAN TERMINATE THE ELEVATOR AT THE 8TH FLOOR AND MAKE THE 9TH FLOOR INTO A LIMITED ACCESS AREA. HOWEVER, UNTIL FUNDS FOR THE MOVE ARE AUTHORIZED WE ARE STALLED.

4. TO IMPLEMENT THE MOVE WE MUST UTILIZE ALL OUR SPACE AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, WE SENT DETAILED FLOOR PLANS AND PROPOSED RENOVATION COSTS IN AN OM TO EMBASSY CANBERRA ON SEPT 2. COPIES OF THE OM AND OF THE ENCLOSURES WERE SENT TO EA/EX AND TO SY IN THE DEPT.

5. WE ARE ALREADY IN POSITION TO BEGIN WORKING ON THOSE PLANS. THE FIRST PARCEL OF ACQUIRED FLOOR SPACE HAS BEEN STANDING IDLE FOR NEARLY A MONTH BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS. WE ARE READY TO MOVE AS SOON AS THE DEPT AUTHORIZES US TO START. CAN YOU GET US APPROX \$20,000?
BRAND

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